

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Joshua M. Phillippe

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: February 26, 2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module: Architecture in Indianapolis, Scottish Rite Cathedral

Teaching Module Goals:

Frame a discussion on Christianity, the Christian architectural legacy in the United States and contemporary religious trends.

Assigned Readings:

David W. Wills, *Christianity in the United States, Chapter 3: A Global Power*, pages 47-82.

Michael Lipka, *Rise of Religious "Nones"*, Pew Research Center, November 11, 2015

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/11/religious-nones-are-not-only-growing-theyre-becoming-more-secular/>

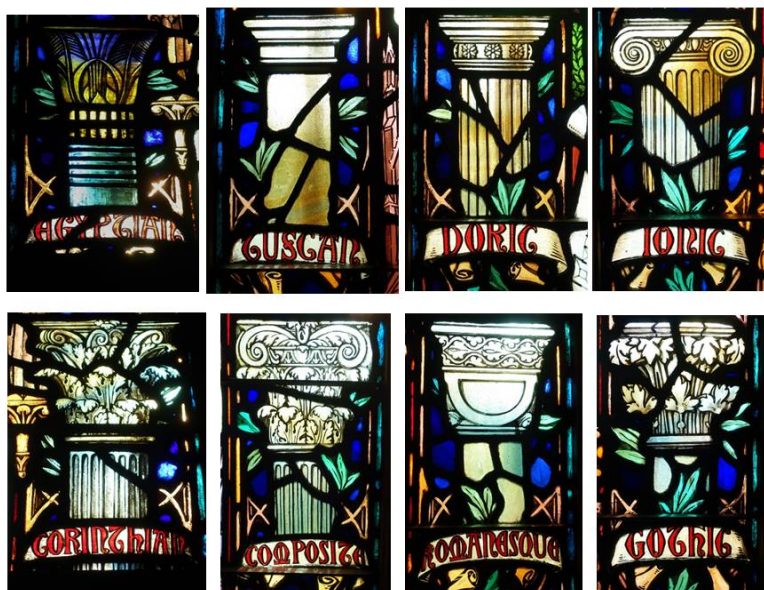
Study Questions and Discussion Prompts for Students:

Type up a short reflection answering the following questions and bring it to class next week for credit and discussion.

1. The Scottish Rite Cathedral is a masonic lodge in downtown Indianapolis with neo-gothic limestone architecture and dense Christian symbolism. Plan a tour of the structure (Tuesday-Friday, 10am-2pm, see [website](#)) noting the building's many external components and interior ornaments. Give special time and attention to the original 1929 east-facing art glass windows (stained glass). What are some of the notable architectural features of the Scottish Rite Cathedral? Discuss a few of the details that reference art history from the *Sculpture*, *Painting* and *Architecture* windows.

2. After touring the Scottish Rite Cathedral and reading the selections from Wills' and the Pew poll on growing American secularism, do you think gothic revival architecture will continue to be relevant in the 21st century? Why or why not? Consider classical temples, originally religious in purpose, which are still taught, discussed and visited frequently today.

Scottish Rite Cathedral tour information: <http://www.aasr-indy.org/scottish-rite/tour-cathedral>



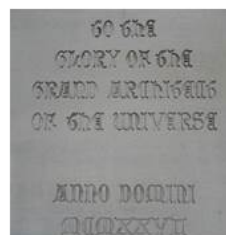
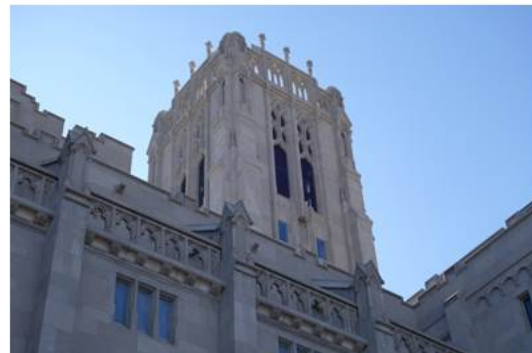
All photographs by Joshua M. Phillippe, *Architecture Window* (detail), Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1927-1929, Indianapolis, Indiana



SCULPTURE WINDOW



**ARCHITECTURE & PHILOSOPHY DETAILS
SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL, 1927-1929**



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL, 1927